

SENATE
Senate Resolution No. 182

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

A RESOLUTION HONORING FATHER JAMES B. REUTER, S.J. FOR HIS
EXTRAORDINARY AND UNPARALLELLED LIFE OF SERVICE TO THE FILIPINO
PEOPLE

WHEREAS:

James B. Reuter, Jr. came to the Philippines on the eve of the Second World War as a young man preparing for the priesthood. At that point, he began to teach and to write, marking out the path that he would follow for decades after. When the Philippines was finally swept up into the war, though he endured incarceration and starvation at the prison camp at Los Baños, Laguna, through his songs and prayers, he remained a source of strength and inspiration for others.

Then the war ended. Though he returned to the land of his birth to be ordained a priest, despite the sufferings he endured during the war, he came back.

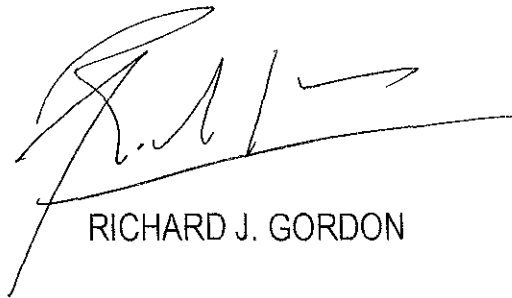
Through his teaching, coaching basketball and debate team, directing plays, and moderating the school paper, he went on to shape the hearts, minds and souls of generations of Filipinos with his words and his deeds, molding the vision and values of the nation's future leaders, crafting them into men and women for others. Through his writing, as an author, a columnist and a playwright, he has paid tribute to the first Filipino Catholic saint, and honored the Philippine struggle for freedom, and went on to pioneer the field of broadcast media by writing, producing and directing radio and television programs that shaped the consciousness and values of the Filipino people. As an educator, artist and communicator, he spread a message of hope among the Filipinos, arising from a belief in fundamental freedom and dignity, and one that transcended the bounds of religion. His message was one which he lived and exemplified, not only through his commitment to improve the lives of the less fortunate through acts of charity, but by his commitment in spreading that message in the face of political upheaval.

Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., was born an American, and yet he lived his life as a Filipino, and for the Filipinos. Though he has received many awards - from the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communications Arts, to the Papal award *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* for outstanding and exemplary service to the Catholic Church and the Holy See, including a grant of Honorary Filipino citizenship in 1996 by the Philippine Senate - such honors fail to truly capture the immensity of his sacrifices for the Filipino people.

In the twilight of his life, in recognition of the fullness by which it was lived, and in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of prisoners of war from the camp at Los Baños, Laguna where he was incarcerated, the Philippine Senate must recognize Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., for all his contributions to education, history, art and literature, and for leading and inspiring others in all that he taught, wrote, said and did, *to believe and live in a life of vision, of leadership, and of dignity.*

WHEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Senate honor, as it hereby honors, Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., for his life of extraordinary and unparalleled service to the Philippines and the Filipino people, exemplified by his extraordinary commitment as an educator, communicator and artist, to the cause of freedom and dignity.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Gordon', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

RICHARD J. GORDON